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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, June 5, 1986 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 31 totaled an estimated 15.3 billion ton-miles, 2.2 percent below the corresponding week of 1985, the Association of American Railroads reported today. Both weeks included the Memorial Day Holiday.

Cumulative volume for the first 22 weeks of 1986 was an estimated 372.1 billion ton-miles, 0.1 percent lower than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended May 31 totaled 338,955, down 2.9 percent from last year, and 14.1 percent lower than the preceding non-holiday week. Compared with last year, loadings were up 1.0 percent in the West, but down 5.5 percent in the East, and 7.2 percent in the South.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 14 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. Coal loadings were down by 8,140 cars (7.9 percent) and grain traffic decreased by 2,601 cars (13.3 percent). Nineteen of the 21 commodity groups decreased from the preceding non-holiday week.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended May 24 totaled 99,913 trailers and/or containers, 14.6 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 21 weeks of the year was 2,067,781 trailers and/or containers, up 16.8 percent from 1985.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/31/86:

	Loadings in Week ended May 31, 1986		Change from Corresponding Week 1985			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	16,930	D	2,601	13.3	D	2,856	14.4
Other farm products	3,800	I	140	3.8	D	242	6.0
Metallic ores	18,136	I	2,176	13.6	D	1,823	9.1
Coal	94,478	D	8,140	7.9	D	15,949	14.4
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	12,144	D	52	0.4	D	3,039	20.0
Nonmetallic minerals	9,035	D	2,468	21.5	I	30	0.3
Grain mill products	9,184	I	264	3.0	D	1,361	12.9
Food and kindred products	9,580	D	396	4.0	D	1,608	14.4
Primary forest products	9,113	D	1,482	14.0	D	1,353	12.9
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,450	I	285	4.0	D	936	11.2
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,327	D	1,640	11.7	D	380	3.0
Chemicals and allied products	22,269	I	746	3.5	D	2,913	11.6
Petroleum products	4,384	I	284	6.9	D	501	10.3
Stone, clay and glass products	9,314	D	1,048	10.1	D	1,407	13.1
Coke	3,825	D	892	18.9	D	614	13.8
Metals and products	8,833	D	821	8.5	D	136	1.5
Motor vehicles and equipment	18,602	D	222	1.2	D	3,315	15.1
Waste and scrap materials	7,305	D	102	1.4	D	1,348	15.6
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,565	D	2,740	51.6	D	428	14.0
All other carloads	59,591	I	8,515	16.7	D	15,561	20.7
LCL traffic	90	D	44	32.8	-	0	0.0
Total Cars Loaded	338,955	D	10,239	2.9	D	55,740	14.1
Corresponding week of 1985	349,193						

	1986	1985	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (22 weeks)	8,212,438	8,227,177	D 0.2
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
21 Weeks ended May 24	356.8	356.8	I 0.0
Week ended May 31	15.3	15.7	D 2.2
22 weeks cumulative	372.1	372.4	D 0.1

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